

HIS COMMANDMENTS & HIS LAWS

The Apodictic & Caustic Laws of God

Though the Law contains all the essence of the Commandments, the Word of God makes a clear distinction between the Law, and the Commandments.

(Exodus 15:26) And he said, If you will carefully listen to the voice of Jehovah your God, and will do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His Commandments(4687), and keep all His Laws(2706) ...

"Commandments" - 4687 מצַוָּה [mitsvah /mits·vaw/] n f. 1 commandment. 1a commandment (of man). 1b the commandment (of God). 1c commandment (of code of wisdom).

"Laws" - 2706 פֶּה [choq /khoke/] n m. 1 statute, ordinance, limit, something prescribed, due. 1a prescribed task. 1b prescribed portion. 1c action prescribed (for oneself), resolve. 1d prescribed due. 1e prescribed limit, boundary. 1f enactment, decree, ordinance. 1f1 specific decree. 1f2 law in general. 1g enactments, statutes. 1g1 conditions. 1g2 enactments. 1g3 decrees. 1g4 civil enactments prescribed by God.

The decisions (judgments) that Moses gave became known as case law (casuistic law) and they differed from the Ten Commandments (apodictic law). The Ten Commandments were general laws not based on specific cases, as the Law given through Moses was. So Israel had casuistic laws (that contained judgments) which were largely based on the apodictic laws (the Commandments). Another way to understand it is that the Commandments themselves have no ceremonial observances nor judicial judgments (prescribed sentences based on the judgments). The Law on the other hand holds the precepts of the Commandments and does have ceremonial observances and judicial regulations attached to them.

An example for you between the Law and the Commandments:

COMMANDMENT: **(Exodus 20:14)** You shall not commit adultery.

VS.

LAW: **(Leviticus 20:10)** And a man who commits adultery with a man's wife, who commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, the adulterer and the adulteress dying shall die.

The Law is based on the Commandment, but the Commandment is not the Law. It's only the precept of the Law. The Law has a judicial ruling attached to it "the adulterer and the adulteress dying shall die."

It is such "ordinances" that Jesus Christ abolished at the cross, not the precepts of the Laws themselves **[Colossians 2:13-14]**.

